

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for facilitating sharing of information in a computer network in which the information is used to at least partially complete an online form, the method comprising:

accessing, at a host computer, a first data profile containing a non-filtered set of data corresponding to a first user;

creating, at the host computer, a filtered first data profile containing a filtered set of data, wherein the filtered set of data is taken from the first data profile;

coalescing, at the host computer, data from the filtered first data profile and data from a second data profile to construct a third data set, wherein the third data set is used to complete the online form such that certain data items required by the online form relating to the first user are taken from the filtered first data profile portion of the third data set; and,

receiving, at the host computer, a completed online form when the online form contains a modified data item, wherein the first data profile is updated with the modified data item, and wherein the completed online form includes viewable profile data populated from the filtered first data profile portion of the third data set.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the filtered first data profile further comprises selecting particular data items from the first data profile that the first user intends to share with a computer network user.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the filtered first data profile further comprises creating the filtered first data profile for a specific computer network user.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the specific computer network user is a gift giver and the first user is a gift receiver.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the filtered first data profile inherits privacy preferences from data items in the first data profile.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein privacy preferences attached to the filtered first data profile determine how the filtered first data profile will be used.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of coalescing data from the filtered first data profile and data from the second data profile further comprises extracting data from the filtered first data profile relating to shipping and specific characteristics of the first user and extracting data from the second data profile relating to billing.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically filling in the online form with data from the third data set once the first user has been selected by a second user.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising requesting access to use the second data profile in response to a notification to fill in the online form.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising granting access to the second data profile thereby enabling a computer network user to fill in the online form.
11. (previously presented) A method of allowing an information requester to access data from an information provider in order to complete an online merchant form, the method comprising:
 - creating, at a host computer, a filtered data set containing data that the information provider is willing to share with particular third-party users, including the information requester;
 - retrieving, at the host computer, the online merchant form upon request by the information requester, the online merchant form having a plurality of fields;
 - inserting, at the host computer, data from the information requester into a first subset of the plurality of fields;
 - granting access, at the host computer, to the filtered data set by the information provider to the information requester so that data from the filtered data set is inserted into a second subset of the plurality of fields, wherein the online merchant form is from an online merchant not affiliated with any other online merchant; and,

receiving, at the host computer, a completed online merchant form directly from a client computer upon submission of the completed online form, when the online merchant form contains a modified data item, wherein a first data profile is updated with the modified data item, and wherein the completed online merchant form includes viewable profile data populated from at least one of the data from the information requester and the data from the filtered data set.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the online merchant is not associated with at least one of a network and a group of other online merchants.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
dynamically updating the filtered data set with updated information from the information provider such that the information requester has access to only the updated information.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the filtered data set is updated by editing an underlying un-filtered data set under the control of the information provider.